

## Government to deliver improved maternity services

The state government will set up 'bub hubs' in communities to educate and care for mothers during pregnancy and post-birth as part of a \$52 million reform of maternity services. Similar to community health centres, the bub hubs will link up with large hospitals to offer continuity of care. The concept is a key proposal from an independent review of maternity services in Queensland which found that many women felt they received inadequate or inconsistent advice about birthing choices, and that care from pregnancy to early parenthood was segmented. Mothers also said they were ill-prepared for breast-feeding and baby care.

## Look and learn

Researchers at the University of Washington believe that infants take amazing leaps towards language just before they turn one by following mum's eyes to discover what she is talking about. By carefully watching they use this social information to see what we are focusing on. Even when babies are too young to talk, those individual babies who are most attuned to their mother's eye gazing are the same babies who pick up language faster, more than half a year later. By "breaking the code" of what mum is talking about, babies begin to understand what language is and how it is used.

## Think twice before choosing caesarean

Opting for a caesarean section in your first pregnancy can increase your risk of complications in future natural deliveries. Scientists from the NSW Health Department and the University of Sydney studied more than 136,000 women and found that those women delivering naturally with their second pregnancy after a caesarian were at increased risk of uterine rupture, hysterectomy, haemorrhage, admission to the intensive care unit and infection. Their second babies were also more likely to be delivered prematurely and require admission to intensive care. Although complications are not common, the increased risk is the result of a scar on the uterus which, in the worst cases, could rupture during vaginal birth.

**Do you have a comment or story regarding caesarean section verses natural delivery? We would love to hear from you. Send your comments to: BABIES ON THE COAST c/Kids on the Coast PO BOX 1291 NOOSA HEADS QLD 4567 EMAIL: [editorial@kidsonthecoast.com.au](mailto:editorial@kidsonthecoast.com.au)**

## Bubba Log

- The first 6 weeks with a new baby are stressful enough. Sleep deprivation and general maternal vagueness add to the chaos, making an organised plan helpful.... Brisbane Mum Michelle Formann developed, produced and is now selling "BubbaLog". It is an easy to use nappy bag size booklet to save writing long notes. The Bubba Log has columns to record feeding, nappy changes, sleep patterns, medications, shopping and to do lists, weekly progress records and questions for doctors and nurses. For under \$10 BubbaLog is a great gift for new parents. To buy online or to find your local retailer, visit the BubbaLog website at [www.bubbalog.com.au](http://www.bubbalog.com.au)

